

## Message Text

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16

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 DRC-01

DPW-01 SCI-06 SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SAJ-01

NIC-01 CCO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /197 W

----- 068833

R 102330Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2261

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS USUN 0065

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR UN XF

SUBJ: SYG'S COMMENTS ON ME AT JAN 10 PRESS CONFERENCE

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. AT UN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 10  
SYG COMMENTED ON GENEVA CONFERENCE AND PROSPECTS FOR ME PEACE.  
PARA 2 BELOW CONTAINS TEXT OF WALDHEIM'S REMARKS ON ME  
IN PREPARED OPENING STATEMENT, WHILE PARA 3 SUMMARIZES  
MORE SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS IN QUESTION AND ANSWER SECTION.

2. "THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, WHICH ONCE AGAIN ERUPTED INTO FULL  
SCALE FIGHTING ON 6 OCT, HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF WORLD ATTENTION  
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FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS. YOU ALL KNOW THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH  
HAVE BROUGHT US TO THE PRESENT STAGE. THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

WHICH OPENED ON 21 DECEMBER WAS, I HOPE AND BELIEVE, A TURNING POINT IN THIS INCREDIABLY COMPLEX, TRAGIC AND DIFFICULT PROBLEM. THE FACT THAT THE CONFERENCE COULD BE CONVENED TO BEGIN THE SEARCH FOR A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT WAS IN ITSELF A GREAT STEP FORWARD. THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE US AND THE USSR IN THIS SEARCH IS AN IMPORTANT AND HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENT. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE UN IS VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS AND WILL, I AM SURE, CONTINUE TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION.

"THE FIRST TASK OF THE CONFERENCE, DISENGAGEMENT OF ARMED FORCES, IS NOW BEING PURSUED BY THE MILITARY WORKING GROUP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE UNEF COMMANDER, GENERAL SIILASVUO. IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY WHAT THE RESULTS WILL BE, BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL WISH TO MAKE PROGRESS AND, I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE GOOD. AFTER THAT FIRST STEP, ALL OF THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ME QUESTION WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH. IT WILL BE A LONG AND HARD TASK, DEMANDING COURAGE, STATESMANSHIP AND PATIENCE. I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS AS TO THE DIFFICULTIES, BUT I BELIEVE THAT ALL THE PARTIES ARE DETERMINED TO SUCCEED. IF THAT IS SO, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AT LEAST THE GOAL OF PEACE WITH HONOUR AND JUSTICE IN THE ME. IT IS A GOAL WHICH IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY FOR THE GOVTS AND PEOPLES OF THE REGION, BUT ALSO TO THE WHOLE INT'L COMMUNITY.

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PERHAPS THE MOST ENCOURAGING FEATURE OF ALL IN 1973 WAS THAT WE SAW THE CONSTRUCTIVE COMBINATION OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY WORKING TOGETHER AT A MOST CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE ME CRISIS. IN THAT CRISES, THE UN SHOWED CONCLUSIVELY THAT ITS MACHINERY CAN BE USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE IF THE MEMBER STATES WISH IT TO BE SO."

3. A) SYRIAN-ISRAELI POW'S: SYG SAID HE IS MUCH CONCERNED WITH QUESTION OF EXCHANGE OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI POW'S AND HAS SENT USYG GUYER TO BOTH SYRIA AND ISRAEL TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS RELATED SUBJECTS. THERE ARE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS AS YET.

B) UN-GREAT POWER RELATIONSHIP: UN WANTS PEACEFUL ME SETTLEMENT, AND IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF UN TRIED TO OPPOSE THE BIG POWERS WHICH ARE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL. UN NEEDS FULL COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF  
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ALL CONCERNED PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE BIG POWERS. WORLD MUST NOT BE UNEASY ABOUT THIS. IT IS NEW AND HIGHLY INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT, A VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, AND THERE SHOULD BE NO COMPETITION BETWEEN UN AND BIG POWERS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN ME. IT IS UN'S DUTY TO COOPERATE AND BE HELPFUL. SUCH COOPERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN IN GENEVA. PARTICIPANTS WILL CONFIRM THAT UN WAS HELPFUL, AND RECOGNIZED ASSISTANCE IN THEIR FINAL STATEMENTS.

C) PALESTINE: PALESTINE PROBLEM IS VERY IMPORTANT ONE IN

AND FUTURE SETTLEMENT. PEACE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THIS. ANY SOLUTION MUST INCLUDE SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINE PROBLEM, UN HAS VERY CLEAR POSITION IN THIS RESPECT.

D) DISENGAGEMENT: THERE IS GOOD CHANCE TO SETTLE MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT PROBLEM QUICKLY, VERY PROBABLY IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. HOWEVER, SECOND PHASE WILL LAST MUCH LONGER SINCE THERE WILL BE LONG, COMPLEX DISCUSSIONS OF ME PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS.

E) UNEF: UNEF WILL PROBABLY PLAY SUBSTANTIAL ROLE IN FUTURE PEACE SETTLEMENT, BEING USED IN BUFFER ZONE TO SEPARATE THE TWO SIDES. WHETHER UNEF WILL BE ENLARGED DEPENDS ON OUTCOME OF PEACE TALKS. IT WILL BE DONE IF THAT IS NECESSARY. UNEF NOW STANDS AT 5500 TROOPS, WITH 7,000 THE TARGET. PROBLEM OF SYG/SC AUTHORITY OVER UNEF IS OLD ONE AND CAN BE SOLVED WITH GOOD WILL. SC RES 340 NOW REQUIRES THAT ALL MATTERS AFFECTING UNEF DEPLOYMENT BE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR FINAL DECISION.

F) ENERGY: US DECISION TO INVITE EIGHT COUNTRIES TO WASHINGTON MEETING OF MAJOR OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES IS A "VERY IMPORTANT APPROACH" TO THIS NEW PROBLEM. SYG ADDED THAT HE WAS INFORMED YESTERDAY OF PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL, AS WERE INVITED COUNTRIES.  
BENNETT

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